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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

PRAYER

The Rabbi Daniel Ginsberg, associate dean, Ohr Somayach-Tanenbaum College, Jerusalem, and rabbi of Yeshiva Ateres Shmuel, of Waterbury, CT, offered the following prayer:

Our Father in Heaven, bless the United States of America and the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who have left their loved ones in defense of freedom.

Bless our lawmakers—men and women who love to serve and who will serve with love. Place into their hearts and into the hearts of their counselors a moral compass to guide them to the right decisions. O Lord, protect and inspire these good, gifted, and gracious people. Endow them with courage, fortitude, wisdom, and crown them with humility and compassion. May the eternal teachings always be with them—to act with accountability, to relate with respect, to be diligent and devoted, to be a friend of truth.

May our beloved United States be a place where dreams are worth dreaming, a place where sacrifices are worth enduring and where our tomorrows can be even better than our todays.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 12, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ, a Senator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SCHATZ thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 428.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 428, a bill (H.R. 4660) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I yield to my friend the distinguished Senator from Connecticut.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

WELCOMING RABBI GINSBERG

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I thank both Majority Leader REID and Chaplain Black for allowing Rabbi Ginsberg to open our session with what I thought was a very beautiful prayer challenging us to action and to conscience.

Just a word about Rabbi Ginsberg's leadership. For the last decade Rabbi Ginsberg has been helping to organize one of the most robust religious communities in Connecticut.

In 2000 Rabbi Judah Harris conceived a yeshiva in Waterbury. It began with about 38 students and today has grown to service 600 students and 180 families who have settled in a neighborhood just off the center of Waterbury that 10 to 20 years ago had become pretty run-down but today is thriving and has been rebuilt because of the community surrounding the yeshiva.

We have had a wonderful Jewish community since the mid-1800s, but it is stronger today than ever, in large part because of the efforts of Rabbi Ginsberg.

In addition to building this wonderful community and being amongst its leaders, he has been of great counsel to me, Senator BLUMENTHAL, and Governor Mallow as a moral guide but also as someone on whom we can rely when it comes to the tough policy choices we have to make.

I again thank Chaplain Black and Leader REID, and I thank Rabbi Ginsberg for accepting our offer to lead us this morning.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11:30 a.m. During that time the Republicans will control the first 30 minutes and the majority will control the second 30 minutes.

At 11:30 a.m. there will be up to four rollcall votes on the confirmation of several nominations, although we are confident and somewhat hopeful that only one rollcall vote will be necessary.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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